

1. (Original) A medication system for performing at least one health safety function, the system comprising:

at least one container for holding doses of medication, the container having an RF memory device containing specifying information useable to determine a prescribed dosing regimen for the medication;

an RF sensor defining a sensing area, the sensor for receiving the specifying information when the RF memory device is within the sensing area; and

a processor;

wherein the processor receives and uses the specifying information to identify prescribed dosing regimen information and the processor performs at least one health safety function as a function of the prescribed dosing regimen information.

2. (Original) The system of claim 1 further including a communication device and a timing device, the processor linked to the timing device and linkable to the communication device and, wherein, the processor further uses the specifying information to determine a predetermined time to take the medication, uses the timing device to identify the predetermined time and causes the communication device to indicate when the predetermined time occurs.

3. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the sensor defines a sensor surface adjacent the antenna and the sensing area is adjacent the sensor surface.

4. (Original) The system of claim 3 wherein the sensor surface is horizontal and the container is supportable on the sensor surface such that the RF device is within the sensing area.

5. (Original) The system of claim 4 wherein, when the container is supported on the sensing surface the container includes at least one essentially downward facing container surface and the RF device is attached to the downward facing container surface.

6. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 5 wherein the sensor is embedded in the ~~container~~ sensor surface.

7. (Original) The system of claim 4 wherein the sensor surface includes a sensing section and a non-sensing section, the sensing area is only adjacent the sensing section and the sensor includes an aligner distinguishing the sensing section from the non-sensing section.

8. (Original) The system of claim 7 wherein the aligner includes indicia on the sensing surface.

9. (Original) The system of claim 8 wherein the downward facing surface has a first shape and the indicia has a second shape and the first and second shapes are essentially identical.

10. (Original) The system of claim 9 wherein the container is a vial including a bottom surface and the downward facing surface is the bottom surface.

11. (Original) The system of claim 2 wherein the communication device and the sensor are integral.

12. (Withdrawn).

13. (Withdrawn).

14. (Withdrawn).

15. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the at least one container includes several containers, each container includes an RF memory device, the sensing area can receive more than one RF memory device at a time and, wherein,

when more than one RF memory device is within the sensing area, the sensor retrieves the specifying information from each of the RF memory devices.

16. (Withdrawn).

17. (Original) The system of claim 2 wherein the communication device includes a visual display.

18. (Withdrawn).

19. (Withdrawn).

20. (Withdrawn).

21. (Withdrawn).

22. (Original) A medication system for performing at least one health safety function, the system comprising:

at least one container for holding doses of medication, the container having a specifying device containing specifying information useable to determine a prescribed dosing regimen for the medication;

a sensor defining a sensing area, the sensing area capable of receiving at least two specifying devices at the same time, the sensor for receiving the specifying information from each of the specifying devices within the sensing area; and

a processor;

wherein the processor receives and uses the specifying information to identify prescribed dosing regimen information and the processor performs at least one health safety function as a function of the prescribed dosing regimen information.

23. (Original) The systems of claim 22 further including a communication device linkable to the processor the communication device capable of indicating any of the containers.

24. (Original) The system of claim 23 further including a timing device linked to the processor wherein, when more than one specifying device is within the sensing area, the processor receives and uses the specifying information for each specifying device in the sensing area to identify prescribed dosing regimen information and a predetermined time to take each of the medications, the processor uses the timing device to determine when the predetermined time occurs for each of the medications and the processor causes the communication device to indicate the medications to be consumed at the predetermined times.

25. (Original) The system of claim 24 wherein the sensing area includes at least first and second separate sensing areas for receiving specifying information from separate specifying devices.

26. (Original) The system of claim 25 wherein the communication device includes a separate visual warning indicator adjacent each of the sensing areas and, wherein, the communication device indicates which medication to consume by activating the visual warning indicator adjacent medication to be consumed.

27. (Original) The system of claim 26 wherein the sensor defines a horizontal sensor surface, when containers are supported on the sensing surface the containers each include at least one essentially downward facing surface, the specifying devices are attached to the downward facing surfaces, the sensor surface includes a sensing section and a non-sensing section for each of the sensing areas, the sensing areas only adjacent the sensing sections and the sensor includes a separate aligner for each of the sensing sections distinguishing the sensing sections from the non-sensing section.

28. (Original) The system of claim 27 wherein the aligners include indicia on the sensing surface.

29. (Original) The system of claim 28 wherein the downward facing surfaces each have a first shape and the indicia each have a second shape and the first and second shapes are essentially identical.

30. (Withdrawn).

31. (Withdrawn).

32. (Withdrawn).

33. (Original) The system of claim 22 wherein the processor periodically causes the sensor to scan the sensing area to identify specifying devices in the sensing area.

34. (Withdrawn).

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36. (Original) The system of claim 23 wherein the communication device includes a visual display.

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107. (Original) A method for performing at least one health safety function, the method for use with a system including at least one container for holding doses of medication, the container having a specifying device containing specifying information useable to determine a prescribed dosing regimen for the medication, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a sensor defining a sensing area that is large enough to receive at least two separate specifying devices at one time, the sensor for receiving the specifying information from the specifying devices when the specifying devices are within the sensing area, the sensor linkable to the processor;

positioning at least one specifying device within the sensing area;

receiving the specifying information;

using the specifying information to identify prescribed dosing regimen information; and

performing at least one health safety function as a function of the prescribed dosing regimen information.

108. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 107 wherein the step of providing a sensor includes providing a sensor that defines at least two separate sensing areas for receiving specifying information from separate containers, the step of providing a communication device includes providing a separate visual warning indicator adjacent each of the sensing areas and, wherein, the step of indicating includes causing the communication device corresponding to a specific medication to indicate by activating the visual warning indicator adjacent medication to be consumed.

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